

Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination

This chapter presents a review of all consultation and coordination efforts undertaken for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Environmental Assessment, referred to herein as the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project.

Project Scoping History

The National Park Service initiated public scoping for the proposed Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project for a 30-day period beginning on May 2, 2005 and continuing through June 1, 2005. In addition, the National Park Service posted a project fact sheet and project planning updates on the park's web site. The National Park Service made available to the public the 30% Design Drawings for this project at the May 2005 Open House, hosted in the Auditorium in Yosemite Valley. Consequently, many scoping comments the park received call for specific actions related to schematic concepts outlined in these 30% Design Drawings. However, comment authors were aware those schematic concepts were subject to change based on public scoping comments received on the project and the results of the environmental compliance process. Written public scoping comments were received by fax, email, and U.S. mail. During the scoping period, 11 public comment letters were received. The comments were reviewed and analyzed to determine public concerns.

Based on internal and public scoping comments and applicable federal law, regulations, and executive orders, the National Park Service determined that an environmental assessment would be the appropriate level of compliance for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project. Public scoping comments and issues raised by National Park Service staff were used in the alternatives development process and the analysis presented in this environmental assessment.

Agency Consultation

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The National Park Service is coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding wetland permitting for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project. The National Park Service will submit a Section 404 wetland fill permit application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project, and this permit would be in place prior to project implementation.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

The National Park Service is currently coordinating with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain a water quality certification for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.) requires all federal agencies to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency does not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or critical habitat. The National Park Service obtained a list of federally listed endangered and

threatened species that may be present in the Yosemite Valley area in early August of 2005 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service website. This list was used as the basis for the special-status species analysis in this environmental assessment. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue, as defined by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as environmental compliance for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project is finalized.

California State Historic Preservation Officer/Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

A Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service at Yosemite, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding Planning, Design, Construction, Operations and Maintenance was developed in consultation with Native American tribes having cultural association with Yosemite National Park and was executed in October 1999 (NPS 1999). Pursuant to Article VI of the Programmatic Agreement, the review process for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) is being conducted for the Yosemite Valley Loop Road culverts and headwalls that may be contributing elements to the Yosemite Valley Historic District. The National Park Service is in the process of seeking concurrence of the DOE from the California State Historic Preservation Officer. Additionally, the National Park Service has provided notice to the California State Historic Preservation Officer regarding this project and will continue consultation with them regarding avoidance and minimization of adverse effects to historic properties.

American Indian Consultation

Yosemite National Park is consulting with American Indian tribes having cultural association with Yosemite Valley, including the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. (Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation), on proposed actions under the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project. Information sharing and project planning has included consultation sessions with the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk, the Mono Lake Kutzadika Paiute Indian Community, and the American Indian Council of Mariposa County, Inc. Consultation and partnering will continue with the American Indian tribes throughout the planning and implementation of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project.

Future Information

Updated information about various aspects of the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project will be periodically distributed via newsletters, mailings, the Yosemite National Park web site (www.nps.gov/yose/planning), and regional and local news media. There will be a 30-day public comment period on this environmental assessment.

Written comments regarding this document should be directed to:

Superintendent, Yosemite National Park
ATTN: Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project
P.O. Box 577
Yosemite, California 95389
Fax: 209-379-1294
Email: Yose_Planning@nps.gov

This document can be reviewed online at www.nps.gov/yose/planning. To request a printed copy, call 209-379-1365.

List of Agencies, Organizations, and Businesses that Received the Yosemite Valley Loop Road Project Environmental Assessment

Acton – Agua Dulce Trails Council	Caltrans New Technology and Research
ADA Compliance Service	Caltrans Planning
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	California Native American Heritage Commission
AIA California Council	California Office of Historic Preservation
Alameda County Public Library	California Office of Planning and Research
All Seasons Groveland Inn	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
American Alpine Club	California State Clearinghouse
American Hiking Society	California State Department of Justice
American Indian Council of Mariposa, Inc.	California State Mining and Mineral Museum
American River Club	California State Resources Agency
American Whitewater	California State Senate
Ansel Adams Gallery	California Trade and Commerce Agency
Antelope Valley Press	California Trout Inc., Sierra Nevada Office
Associated Press	California Preservation Foundation
Automobile Club of Southern California	California State Automobile Association
Backcountry Horsemen of California	California State Library
Bakersfield Californian	California Wilderness Coalition
Bassett Memorial Library	Californians for Western Wilderness
Biophilia Society	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center
Bishop Chamber of Commerce	California Native Plant Society Sequoia Chapter
Bishop Paiute Tribe	Coconino National Forest
Bureau of Land Management	Coldwell Banker – Dan Blough & Associates
Bureau of Reclamation	Columbia College Library
California Department of Boating and Waterways	Comfort Inn
California Department of Fish and Game	Congressman George Miller
California Department of Parks and Recreation	Conservation Study Institute
California Department of Justice, Attorney General	Contra Costa Times
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	Council of Fresno County Governments
Caltrans, Transportation Planning Branch	California State University Fresno, Henry Madden Library
Caltrans Central Regional Environmental Analysis Office	California State University Stanislaus
Caltrans District 9	Cycle California! Magazine
Caltrans District 6	Delaware North Corporation
Caltrans Division of Transportation Planning, MS32	Department of Defense U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Caltrans Environmental Planning	Earth First! – Santa Cruz

Earth Island Institute	KCRA TV
Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund	KFBK Radio
East Bay Bicycle Coalition	KFIV Radio
Eastern Madera County Chamber of Commerce	KGO Radio
ECO News	KMJ Radio
Economic Development Council	KMPH Radio
El Portal Homeowners Association	KOVR TV
El Portal Market	KQED Radio
El Portal Town Planning Advisory Committee	KTVU
Entrix, Inc.	KUHL/KZSQ Radio
Environment and Natural Resources	KVML, KZSQ, and KKBN
Environment Now	KXTV
Environmental Defense Fund	Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Environmental Science Associates	Los Angeles City Public Library
Fish Camp Advisory Council	Los Angeles Times
Fish Camp Property Owners Association	Madera County
Foothill Resources	Madera County Board of Supervisors
Foresta Preservation Association	Madera County Chuckchansi Tribal Government
Fresno Chamber of Commerce	Madera County North Fork Mono Indian Museum
Fresno County Board of Supervisors	Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce
Fresno County Planning and Resource Management	Marin County Public Library
Fresno County City Planning Department	Mariposa County
Fresno Flats Historical Library, SHSA	Mariposa County Air Pollution Control District
Fresno Visitors Bureau	Mariposa County Board of Supervisors
Friends of the Earth	Mariposa County Chamber of Commerce
Friends of the River	Mariposa County Department of Public Works
Friends of the River/American Rivers	Mariposa County High School
Friends of Yosemite Valley	Mariposa County Public Library
George Radanovich, Representative	Mariposa County Unified School District
Groveland Branch Library	Mariposa County Visitors Bureau
Groveland Community Services District	Mariposa Gazette
Groveland Ranger District	Mariposa Horse Association
Groveland Rotary	Mariposa Public Utility District
Hayward Area Recreation and Park District	Mariposa Superintendent of Public Schools
Heritage Trails	Mariposa Tribune
Highway 120 Association	Merced Conference and Visitor Center
Highways Magazine	Merced County Association of Governments
Host Communications	Merced County Planning Commission
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest	Merced County Planning Department
Inyo County Planning Department	Merced Irrigation District
Inyo National Forest	Merced Sun Star
John T. Doolittle, Representative	
KCBS-AM Radio	

MERG	Pacific Southwest Region Forest and Range Experimental Station
Minarets Ranger District	Ramada Limited Oakhurst
Modesto City Planning Department	Robert Crown Law Library
Modesto County Planning Department	Royal Robbins, Inc.
Mono County Board of Supervisors	Sacramento County Public Library
Mono County Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony	Salazar Library, Sonoma State University
Mono County Community Development Department	San Bernardino County Public Library
Mono County Mono Lake Indian Community	San Francisco Chronicle
Mono County Planning Department	San Francisco City Public Library
Monograph Acquisition Services	San Francisco Examiner
Mountain Light Photography	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Hetch Hetchy Water and Power
National Park Service (NPS)	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
NPS – Air Resources Division	San Jose City Public Library
NPS – Columbia Cascades Seattle Office	San Jose Mercury News
NPS – Denver Service Center	Santa Cruz County Library
NPS – Pacific West Region	Save-the-Redwoods League
NPS – Pacific Great Basin Support Office	Saving Yosemite
NPS – Water Resources Division	Scotty’s B&B/Cabin Rentals
NPS – Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs	Service Employees International Union Local 535
National Tour Association	Sequoia Alliance
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Sierra Club
Native Habitats	Sierra Club Condor Group
Natural Resources Council	Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Natural Resources Defense Council	Sierra Club Merced Group
NBC News	Sierra Club National Office
NBC TV	Sierra Club Range of Light, Toiyabe Chapter
NewFields International, L.L.C.	Sierra Club Tuolumne Group
Newsweek	Sierra Club Yosemite Committee
North Fork Rancheria	Sierra Communications
Northcoast Environmental Center	Sierra National Forest
National Parks and Conservation Association, National Office	Sierra Railroad Company
Oakdale Planning Division	Sierra Star
Oakhurst Public Library	Sierra Telephone
Oakland Tribune	Sonoma County Library
Office of Assemblyman Dave Cogdill	Sonora Union Democrat
Official Trip Reports	Soroptimist International of Groveland
SBC Pacific Bell	Saint Patrick-Saint Vincent High School
Pacific Gas and Electric Public Affairs	Stanford University Green Library
Pacific Legal Foundation	Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee
Planning and Conservation League	Stanislaus Council of Government

Stanislaus County Library	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Stanislaus National Forest	U.S. Department of the Interior Library
State Water Resources Control Board	USGS Publications Department
Stockton Record	USGS Water Resources Division, Western Region
Teamsters 386	Via Adventures
The Access Fund	Wawona Area Property Owners Association
The Fresno Bee	Wawona Town Plan Advisory Committee
The Modesto Bee	Wild Earth Advocates
The Mountain Democrat Newspaper	Wild Wilderness
The Redwoods in Yosemite	Wilderness Society
The Sacramento Bee	Wilderness Watch
The Trust for Public Land	Wildlands Center for Preventing Roads
Theroux Environmental	Woodbury University
Tioga Lodge	Yosemite Association Board of Trustees
The Nature Conservancy Weed Program	Yosemite Area Audubon
Tuolumne County	Yosemite Association
Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors	Yosemite Bug Hostel
Tuolumne County Chamber of Commerce	Yosemite Campers Association
Tuolumne County Community Development	Yosemite Campers Coalition
Tuolumne County Department of Public Works	Yosemite Concession Services
Tuolumne County Planning Commission	Yosemite Fund
Tuolumne County Tuolumne Me-wuk Tribal Council	Yosemite Guides
Tuolumne County Visitor Bureau	Yosemite Institute
University of California Berkeley Bancroft Library	Yosemite Mobilization Committee
University of California Davis Shields Library	Yosemite Motels
University of California Water Resources Center Archives	Yosemite Mountaineering School
University of California Los Angeles Maps and Government Information Library	Yosemite Partners GMP
University of California Los Angeles Young Research Library	Yosemite Pines
United States Attorney's Office	Yosemite Research Center
University of California Library Tech Services	Yosemite Research Library
U.S. Congress	Yosemite Restoration Trust
U.S. Department of Justice	Yosemite Sierra Visitors Bureau
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management	Yosemite Sightseeing Tours
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX	Yosemite Valley Railroad Company
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Yosemite Valley School
U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)	Yosemite West Group
U.S. Post Office	Yosemite West Home Owners
USA Media	Yosemite West Real Estate